

AMENDMENT

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A planting machine for planting of seedlings into soil in a regular and uniform sequence, comprising:

a frame;

at least one plant delivering unit comprising a means for conveying seedlings from a point of manual insertion to a point of placement in sequence in soil, each unit further comprising a means to open a furrow in soil, to maintain the opened furrow for delivery of seedling, and to close the opened furrow after delivery of seedling, said delivering unit having a ~~rotatable drum~~ rotatable about an axis, the structure of which defines compartments around its outermost surface for conveying seedlings from point of manual insertion to point of release, said drum compartments ~~being outwardly open~~ having an opening radially open outward from the axis of the drum for reception of manually inserted seedlings into the opening and for release of seedlings out of the opening to next delivery stage, further including;

an upright conduit means, being open at its upper and lower ends and of sufficient size and located in proximity of, and exposed to, rotatable drum for acceptance of seedlings released from drum, such conduit means guiding seedling from point of release to point of delivery to furrow opening means.

2. (Previously Amended) The planting machine as claimed in claim 1, wherein said rotatable drum has a central shaft, being mounted at the end of said drum for rotation about its lengthwise axis, compartments in said drum being defined as the space between adjacent plates mounted for rotation on outer surface of said drum.

3. (Currently Amended) The planting machine as claimed in claim 1, wherein a means is provided to augment the release of seedling from rotatable drum at a predetermined point in its rotation with relation to upright conduit

means, such ~~augmenting~~ means provided to augment being a blast of pressurized air, such blast being delivered through an air restricting and directing means.

4. (Currently Amended) The planting machine as claimed in claim 3, wherein the predetermined point ~~of augmentation~~ of seedling release by air blast can be changed with relation to the upright conduit means, such change being effected by manual repositioning of air restricting and directing means.

5. (Currently Amended) The planting machine as claimed in claim 1, wherein the upright conduit means is of rectangular cross section, a portion of one side of said rectangle being open and unrestrictive to the flow of particles.

6. (Currently Amended) A seedling planter, comprising:
a plant delivering unit,
a rotatable drum mounted on said plant delivering unit, said rotatable drum having compartments open radially outward from the axis of rotation for conveying seedlings from point of insertion to point of release;

~~an~~ a jet associated with said rotatable drum, said jet facilitating even release of seedlings at said point of release.

7. (Previously Presented) The seedling planter according to claim 6, further comprising a frame, wherein said plant delivering unit is mounted on said frame.

8. (Previously Presented) The seedling planter according to claim 7 wherein said frame is suitable for being pulled behind a tractor.

9. (Previously Presented) The seedling planter according to claim 7 further comprising a traction wheel, said traction wheel being mounted on said frame, said traction wheel being operable interconnected with said plant delivering unit to drive said plant delivering unit.

10. (Currently Amended) A method for planting seedlings, comprising:
inserting seedlings into a radially outward-facing opening on a rotatable drum at a point of insertion;
conveying the seedlings to a point of release;
releasing the seedlings at the point of release for planting;

facilitating release of the seedlings at the point of release by a jet.

11. (Original) The method according to claim 10 wherein said jet is a jet of air from a nozzle.

12. (Original) The method according to claim 10 wherein the rotatable drum conveys the seedlings to the point of release

13 (Currently Amended) A seedling planter comprising,

A a frame having a front end, a rear end, a top, and a bottom,

A a three-point hitch attached to said front end of said ~~frame~~-~~frame~~,

A a planter ~~console~~ ~~consol~~ on said top of said frame,

A a traction wheel mounted on said rear end of said frame, whereby forwards motion of said frame imparts rotational motion to said traction wheel,

A a first drum shaft rotatably mounted on said planter console,

A a first planter drum axially mounted on said first drum shaft, such that said first planter drum is fixed with respect to said first drum shaft and rotatable with respect to said planter console,

A a drive line operably connecting said traction wheel to said first drum shaft, whereby rotation of said traction wheel is transmitted by said drive line to said first drum shaft, causing the rotation of said first drum shaft and of said first planter drum,

~~Flights~~ flights mounted on said first planter drum extending radially from said first planter drum and defining fixed, radially outward openings between said flights for receiving seedlings,

A a fixed release point at a position during said rotation of said first planter drum at which seedlings are to be released from said flights through the fixed, radially outward openings,

~~An~~ an air compressor mounted on said frame,

~~An~~ an air hose having a first end and a second end, said first end of said air hose being connected to said compressor on said frame,

A a nozzle on said second end of said air hose,

~~Said~~ said second end of said air hose being~~-end~~ positioned such that said nozzle on said second end directs a jet of air onto said flights at said release point, causing release of said seedling at said release point regardless of variations in seedling size, weight, and consistency,

A a ~~plow blade~~ blade mounted on the bottom of said frame for opening a furrow for receipt of said seedlings,

A a funnel-shaped plant guide mounted on said frame behind said plow, for receiving seedlings released from said first planter drum at said release point by operation of said jet of air and directing seedlings into said furrow opened by said plow, whereby seedlings are conveyed from said planter drum to said furrow by operation of gravity and not by mechanical conveyance,

~~Furrow~~ furrow closing fins mounted on said frame behind said plant guide for closing the furrow, whereby seedlings are planted at regularly spaced intervals in the furrow regardless of variations between seedlings.

14 (Previously Presented) The seedling planter according to claim 13, wherein said air compressor is driven by a tractor power take-off.

15 (Previously Presented) The seedling planter according to claim 13 further comprising an operator bench mounted on said top of said frame, whereby an operator seated on said bench is within arm's reach of said console such that an operator seated on said bench can drop seedlings into said openings between said flights radially extending from said planter drum, wherein said first planter drum rotates such that the direction of movement of flights along the upper portion of said planter drum is away from said operator bench and towards said release point for release of seedlings to be dropped to said plant guide.

16 (Currently Amended) The seedling planter according to claim 13 further comprising

a second drum shaft rotatably mounted on said planter console,

a second planter drum axially mounted on said second drum shaft,

said drive line operably connecting said traction wheel to said second drum shaft such that said second drum shaft rotates in the opposite direction with respect to said first ~~drums~~ drum shaft.

17. (Previously Presented) The seedling planter according to claim 13 wherein said release point can be adjusted by adjusting the positioning of the wheel, the nozzle, and the air hose to effect release at a different point on rotation of the wheel.